

II. Expedition Dates

Section II of the 1997-98 season plans includes information concerning vessel and aircraft operations along with estimated dates of expeditions and other significant events.

Winfly Activities

Annual augmentation of the U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP) begins with austral winter flights (WINFLY), departing Christchurch, New Zealand, and arriving McMurdo Station, Antarctica, about 20 August 1997. The aircraft will carry scientists and support personnel to start early pre-summer projects, to augment maintenance personnel, and to prepare skiways and ice runways at McMurdo Station. This will involve 4 U.S. Air Force C-141B flights and will increase station population from the winter-over level of about 154 to a transition level of about 373.

Mainbody Activities

Austral summer activities will be initiated in late September 1997 with wheeled aircraft operations between Christchurch, New Zealand and the sea-ice runways at McMurdo Station, Antarctica. This will involve approximately 19 C-141B flights of transport aircraft of the U.S. Air Force Air Mobility Command (AMC), 12 flights by C-130 aircraft of the Royal New Zealand Air Force, and 3 flights by an Italian Air Force C-130 transport aircraft. The sea-ice runway and wheeled aircraft operations will cease about early December 1997 and all subsequent aircraft operations will be conducted by USAP LC-130 aircraft from a prepared skiway.

The 109th Tactical Air Group of the Air National Guard in Schenectady, New York, will provide four LC-130 aircraft and three crews for intra-continental flights during a twelve week period in November/ December 1997 and January/February 1998

Significant Dates

Other significant dates for the summer season include:

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| 1. First week in Oct 1996 | - | Marble Point opens |
| 2. Last week in Oct 1997 | - | McMurdo Station "Mainbody" begins |
| 3. Fourth week in Oct 1997 | - | Siple Dome Camp opens |
| 4. Fourth week in Oct 1997 | - | South Pole Station Opens |
| 5. Second Week in Oct 1997 | - | Downstream "B" Camp opens |

Ship Movements

M/V GREEN WAVE

The cargo ship, M/V GREEN WAVE, is scheduled to complete one trip to McMurdo this season. The ship will depart Port Hueneme, California, in early January 1998 after unloading cargo and transit directly to Port Lyttelton, New Zealand. The Green Wave will again unload additional cargo and depart New Zealand for McMurdo. Cargo will be off-loaded between 02-10 February, after which the ship will depart McMurdo and proceed to Lyttelton, New Zealand to unload additional cargo. It will depart on approximately 17 February for Washington State to off-load waste and recyclable materials from McMurdo Station. From there it will transit to Port Hueneme, California, arriving there on 15 March 1998.

R/V POLAR DUKE

R/V POLAR DUKE was taken off charter May 1997 after making 6 research cruises during the season. The vessel supported various biological, geological, geophysics and oceanographic research programs in the Antarctic Peninsula area and provide logistical support to Palmer Station.

R/V NATHANIEL B. PALMER

R/V NATHANIEL B. PALMER will conduct 7 scientific research cruises, totaling an estimated 272 days at sea, during the 1996-97 season. The vessel will provide support throughout the season for biological, chemical, physical oceanographic, and marine geophysics investigations in the Weddell and the Ross Seas, Ports of call include Punta Arenas and Talchuano, CHILE, Lyttelton, NEW ZEALAND, and McMurdo Station, Antarctica.

R/V LAURENCE M. GOULD

The R/V LAURENCE M. GOULD is scheduled to be dedicated and begin charter-share in October 1997. Plans are for the vessel to replace the R/V POLAR DUKE in research efforts, transport of personnel, and cargo in and around the Antarctic Peninsula area.